

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OPR-02 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 SCS-03 USSS-00 SY-10 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

S E C R E T TUNIS 6026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: E & E PLANNING

REF: STATE 207762

1. SITUATION IN TUNIS CONTINUES TO BE CALM, OWING ESSENTIALLY TO TWO FACTORS: (1) PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT HIS SECURITY FORCES WOULD NOT PERMIT SITUATION TO GET OUT OF CONTROL (EMBTel 5364) AND (2) CONTINUED POPULAR BELIEF THAT ARAB ARMIES ARE HOLDING THEIR OWN. DESPITE OCCASIONAL INDICATIONS OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, CITY HAS BEEN QUIET. ON THE WHOLE (WITH EXCEPTION NOTED BELOW); LOCAL PRESS AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA RELATIVELY RESTRAINED; EMBASSY'S CONTACTS WITH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL TUNISIAN ONGOING AND NORMAL; AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY CALM. IN GENERAL, WE ARE MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE WHILE TAKING A PUBLIC POSTURE OF NORMAL ACTIVITY.

2. WE FULLY AWARE POSSIBILITY OF DETERIORATION IN LOCAL SITUATION IF MILITARY SITUATION FOR ARABS WORSENS, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS BELIEVED OUR CURRENT RESUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL HAS BEEN AN INFLUENTIAL FACTOR. MOST

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WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER (ALS-SABAH) TODAY PROMINENTLY

DISPLAYED ON FRONT PAGE REPORTS, TOGETHER WITH PICTURES AND MAPS, OF US MILITARY RESUPPLY EFFORT TO ISREAL. IN COMING DAYS WE CAN EXPECT OTHER TUNISIAN NEWSPAPERS SIMILARLY TO INCREASE EMPHASIS ON OUR ROLE ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL CAUSING INCREASE IN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS AMONG GENERAL POPULACE.

3. NONETHELESS, WE REMIAN REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND HIS SECURITY FORCES CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. THUS, FOR PRESENT WE HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE EVACUATION FROM TUNIS.

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Message Attributes

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